

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body. I strongly support this amendment because I believe that it's needed. If we are not increasing the budget to the Revenue Department I think we ought to be able to shift the funds so that they can use it for personnel instead of supplies and equipment. I would strongly urge you to vote for this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Orval Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I'm very serious about this. I'm certainly supporting what Senator Cal Carsten has offered. I've talked to Bill Peters and I don't really have any understanding why there was \$354,361 cut from what the Governor asked by the Budget Committee. I don't understand why they asked that. If Bill Peters can run the Revenue Department with that much less money, he certainly should have the option of deciding whether he's going to have employees, or whether he's going to have typewriters, whether he's going to have desks, whether he's going to have paper, or what he's going to have. If we're going to take over a third of a million dollars away from the Revenue Department, certainly we ought to give him the flexibility to spend the money as he sees fit. If we don't feel that he is capable of running that Department and doing that, then we should ask the Governor to take care of it. I feel that Bill Peters will do a fine job, and we should give him this flexibility in his budget. I thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. By way of explanation, the Appropriations Committee recommended throughout, as you all know, a personal services limitation. In the case of the Department of Revenue we did make a substantial reduction from their request, in fact some reduction in what they currently are receiving. I think what Senator Carsten's is offering is flexibility to the administrator for that agency to, because of the reduction of cut, to use a portion of the funds that we put in for operating money to also be used for personnel. While I will again continue to support the committee's position, I think I would have to advise the body that there is some merit in an argument where you reduce agencies to give that agency head adequate flexibility to readjust his operation, perhaps increase some efficiency. The net result of the amendment, I think, will be to retain some positions that might otherwise be deleted, or as a general statement not applied to revenue. If you increase personal services limitation, in effect, you're saying that you're over-budgeted for operating money, probably. But I do not have a strong objection to what Senator Carsten is offering. I do call your attention that it would have the result of not having a reduction that might have been anticipated in personnel in that area.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: I move the previous question, Mr. President.